

GIDEON — THE FLEECE AND THE 300

Judges 6-7

Judges 6:33 Midianites and Amalekites abusive.

God's people beaten discouraged, ..gave up hope

Harvest time.

valley of Jezreel: heart of Manasseh's tribe — close to Gideon's home.

Judges 6:34 Abiezer... *gathered after him*. gathered behind him.

Worst enemies became loyal supporters.

Judges 6:35-37 If fleece is wet in AM and ground dry, then know you are going to use me to save Israel.

Judges 6:38-40 Gideon saying, *Lord, I believe. Help thou my unbelief*.

1. Wet Fleece/dry ground

2. Dry Fleece/wet ground

Brother Andrew: *You would think God would get impatient with him as though Gideon's requests were expressions of constant doubt. But God knew Gideon, His quest was an honest search for truth, proven by his subsequent obedience.*

Lockyer: *The method he adopted was peculiar, but found favor with heaven, God condescending to grant Gideon the double sign. With the complete revelation before us in the Bible, we are not to seek supernatural signs, but take God at His word.*

Gideon didn't have God's completed revelation.

Judges 6:39 ... *Let not thine anger be hot against me,*

Not statement of distrust in call of God and His Word.

Matt. Hen: *God's favor must be sought with great reverence, a due sense of our distance, and a religious fear of His wrath.*

Blaiklock: *His yearning for a "sign" is always a mark of feeble faith.*

Holy Spirit prompts, leads, convicts.

1. Never contrary to Word

2. Never to disobey authority

3. Consistent with Bible

Every open door is not God's open door.

Judges 7:1 *Jerubbaal*: discomfiter of Baal.

Well of Harod: famous well of day.

Judges 7:2 They would think that did it in own strength.

Judges 7:3-5 Dt 20: 5-8

Alexander Whyte: *The day was hot, and the ten thousand came to a river on their march. Their fathers in leaving Egypt had eaten their last supper without taking off their hats or their shoes. They ate that memorable supper standing, with a piece of the Passover lamb in one hand and their staff in the other. And three hundred of Gideon's men out of the ten thousand remembered that supper that day, and they swore to themselves and to one another that they would not sit down to eat bread at a table, nor so much as lie down to drink water out of a river, so long as there was a single Midianite left alive in the land. And thus it was that without even taking off their helmets, the three hundred wet their*

lips out of the hollow of their hand, and were back again that moment in their unbroken ranks.

A matter of loyalty..patriotism ...remembrance to God.

Judges 7:6 300 drank from hands.

9,700 bowed all way down into water and drank like dogs.

Judges 7:7-8 *Victuals*: bags and baggage. Enough food to carry with them.

Trumpets: whether they played or not.

Judges 7:16 *Empty pitchers*: Empty clay jars.

Lamps within the pitchers: candles or torches inside.

1. God not need large numbers.
2. God's methods not always ours.

God had rather save Israel with 300 committed, loyal, faithful men than with 32,000 uncommitted, fearful, disloyal, unfaithful athletes.

Lockyer: 300 men against the countless swarms of Midian! Yes, but the few... brave, active men and God were in the majority. God is not always on the side of the big battalion.

Brother Andrew: God delivers His people with a small band of dedicated people led by men and women in search of truth and willing to act in the power that comes with obedience.

Judges 7:9-10 *Phurah thy servant*: someone confide in.

One that helped him destroy groves and altar of Baal ...A witness

Judges 7:11 *Eavesdrop on them and you will be encouraged.*

unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host. Majority unarmed.

Guards armed and stood around outside of camp.

Judges 7:12-13 Two men sleeping in tent... One tells dream while other interprets.

Wheat: grown on fertile plain

Barley: poorer crop, grown on less productive hill country.

Barley loaf rolled down into camp a dream-symbol of a raid by hills men.

Judges 7:14 **Meaning of dream**- God given to Gideon the victory

God has access to minds. Proverbs 21:1

Judges 7:15- 25 God had 300 stand in their place

Midianites thought they were surrounded by armies of Israel

Began to slice each other to pieces.

Mt Hen: Thus God chose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, a barley-cake to overthrow the tents of the Midianites, that the excellency of the power might be of God only; the gospel is a sword, not in the hand, but in the mouth, the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, of God and Jesus Christ, Him that sits on the throne and the Lamb.

SO WHAT?

1. Be one of the 300. Committed, watchful, loyal, alert to the promptings of God. Obedient to authority.
2. Realize God's ways not ours... therefore, choose to obey God, in spite of the circumstances. Key: obedient to God and His Word